

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A remote controller for controlling a plurality of apparatus, comprising:

a display screen;

a receiver for receiving transmitted data representing a program guide containing a schedule of program listings wherein the listings include a plurality of program titles, the transmitted data further including voice data corresponding to the schedule of program listings in the program guide;

a memory for storing the received program guide data;

user input means for inputting user commands;

a microcontroller configured to retrieve a portion of the program guide data, including a portion of the schedule of program listings, from the memory in response to a first user command and display the selected portion of the program guide on the display screen, wherein the microcontroller is further configured to retrieve from the memory that portion of the voice data that corresponds to the retrieved portion of the schedule of program listings in the program guide displayed on the display screen, convert the voice data to voice messages, and output the voice messages through a speaker; and

a transmitter for transmitting signals to a selected one of the plurality of apparatus.

2. A television system comprising:

a source of data representing a program guide containing a schedule of program listings wherein the listings include a plurality of program titles;

a system transmitter for transmitting the program guide data;

a plurality of apparatus at a user site; and

a remote controller at the user site for selectively controlling the plurality of apparatus, comprising

a receiver for receiving the transmitted program guide data including voice data corresponding to the schedule of program listings in the program guide,

a memory for storing the program guide data,

a display screen,

user input means for inputting user commands,

a microcontroller configured to retrieve a selected portion of the program guide data, including a portion of the schedule of program listings, from the memory in response to a first user command and display the selected portion of the program guide on the display screen, wherein the microcontroller is further configured to retrieve from the memory that portion of the voice data that corresponds to the retrieved portion of the schedule of program listings in the program guide displayed on the display screen, convert the voice data to voice messages, and output the voice messages through a speaker, and

a remote controller transmitter for transmitting signals to a selected one of the plurality of apparatus.

3. The television system of claim 2, wherein the system transmitter is a pager carrier system and the receiver is a pager receiver.

4. The remote controller of claim 3, wherein the system transmitter transmits the program guide data at a frequency of about 900 Mhz.

5. The television system of claim 2, wherein the microcontroller is further configured to scroll the display on the display screen through different portions of the program guide in response to a second user command.

6. In a remote controller having a display screen, a method for navigating a program guide comprising information regarding a plurality of television programs comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal including data representative of the program guide containing a schedule of program listings, wherein the listings include a plurality of program titles and voice data corresponding to the schedule of program listings in the program guide;

storing the program guide and voice data in a memory;

selecting a program guide display in response to a user command;

retrieving a first portion of the program guide, including a first portion of the schedule of program listings, from the memory that includes information regarding a currently selected program broadcast on a currently selected channel;

displaying the first portion of the program guide on the display screen;

retrieving voice data that corresponds to the first portion of the schedule of program listings in the first portion of the program guide displayed on the display screen;
converting the voice data to a voice message;
announcing the voice message through a speaker;
selecting a second portion of the program guide in response to a user command;
retrieving the second portion of the program guide from the memory; and
displaying the second portion of the program guide on the display screen.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second portion of the program guide consists of currently broadcast programs.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the second portion of the program guide consists of programs broadcast on the currently selected channel.

9. A remote controller for controlling a user terminal having a television tuner, comprising:

a display screen displaying a television program guide containing a schedule of television programs;

a receiver receiving transmitted data representing the program guide;

a memory storing the received program guide data;

user input means for inputting user commands;

a microcontroller configured to select one of the television programs on the display screen in response to a first user command, wherein the microcontroller determines whether the selected television program is currently being broadcast and wherein the microcontroller automatically tunes the television tuner to the selected television program in response to the first user command if the selected television program is currently being broadcast, and wherein the microcontroller is further configured to automatically program an associated VCR to record the selected television program in response to the first user command if the selected television program is scheduled to be broadcast in future; and

a transmitter coupled to the microcontroller for transmitting signals that tunes the television tuner or program the associated VCR;

wherein the microcontroller is configured to transmit the program guide data to the television tuner through the transmitter.

10. The remote controller of claim 10, wherein the television program guide includes the title of the television program.

11. The remote controller of claim 10, wherein the microcontroller further comprises a digital signal processor for sorting the program guide data and storing the program guide data in the memory.

12. The remote controller of claim 10, further comprising a speaker, wherein the transmitted program guide data includes voice data corresponding to the program guide, and wherein the microcontroller is further configured to retrieve from the memory voice data corresponding to the selected portion of the program guide displayed on the display screen, convert the voice data to voice messages, and announce the voice messages through the speaker.

13. The remote controller of claim 10, further comprising means for storing in the memory data representing textual information relating to the television tuner, and wherein the microcontroller is further configured to display textual information corresponding to a television tuner in response to a second user command.

14. The remote controller of claim 10, wherein the selected program listing is a current television program, and the microcontroller tunes the television to the channel carrying that program in response to the user command.

15. The remote controller of claim 10, wherein the selected program listing is a future television program, and the microcontroller sets the television tuner to record the future program in response to the user command.